

Crime victims' rights awareness gets boost from offenders



From left: Michelle Brittain, Ingham County Intensive Detention Re-entry Program (IDRP); Cynthia Evans, Clinton/Ingham County IDRP Agent; Lisa Westwood, Crime Victim Services Supervisor; Ericanne Spence, House of Commons Program Coordinator; Judy Alexander, Ingham County Parole Agent and Patty Barnhart, Supervisor, Ingham County Parole and CRP.

Parolees and probationers at the House of Commons Residential Treatment Center in Mason recently lent a hand to assist with crime victims' awareness week which is coming up April 10-16.

During awareness week, victim advocates in the prosecuting attorneys' offices across Michigan distribute ribbons attached to cards to victims and the general public. The cards outline victims' rights and the ribbons help to raise awareness for those rights. The cards distributed to the victims are assembled by the victim advocates.

The Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM) needed help putting the cards together for department staff. In response to that need, Lisa Westwood, Crime Victim Services Supervisor, along with Ingham County Parole and CRP Supervisor Patty Barnhart agreed that having the parolees and probationers do the work would be a positive solution for everyone concerned.

As a result, offenders at the treatment center spent part of an afternoon assembling the note cards as part of their community service.

"This was an excellent opportunity to exercise collaborative efforts among the Crime Victim Services Unit, field staff and PAAM while giving offenders a chance to give back to the community," said Barnhart.

The ribbons and cards will assist crime victims' rights advocates in getting the message to victims that they can request to be notified of the offender's earliest parole eligibility date, release to a community residential program, notice of a public hearing, transfer of the prisoner to a minimum security facility and any parole hearings as well as the unanticipated release of a prisoner.

For more information on crime victims' rights visit www.michigan.gov/corrections and select *Victim Resources*. F.Y.J.

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Another honor for Investigator Kenneth Hatfield



Kenneth Hatfield, 2005 Michigan Corrections Officer of the Year, was selected as a finalist for the 2005 National Correctional Officer of the Year. This nomination earned him a place among the top six nominees nationwide.

"It's no surprise that Investigator Hatfield was selected as a finalist," said Director Patricia L. Caruso. "Our officers are among the very best. They are well trained, professional and dedicated to keeping our prisons and communities safe. Our congratulations to Ken." *F.Y.I.*

Rocking horses go to Children's Trust Fund

Prisoners in the building trades program at the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility put the finishing touches on some rocking horses that may help prevent child abuse. The horses are being donated to the Children's Trust Fund, Michigan Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America for their annual fund-raising auction.

Approximately 17 prisoners work in the building trades shop and each provided some labor for the horses. The material for the project came from recycled pallets.

The building assignments at the facility vary and each prisoner works on a different activity each day. In addition to the rocking horses, participants in the trades program construct picnic tables and book shelves, and repair and clean facility furniture.

"These men are doing a great job on their building projects," said building trades instructor Lester Smith. "When you get people like this who are ready to do something, they go at it 100 percent and they are all going in the same direction."

The department is also looking at a new program that would assist prisoners in securing jobs after their release. The building trades program would be certified by the National Center for Construction Education and Research.

"NCCER is a nationally recognized certification," said Julie DeRose, education manager. "Our goal is to ensure that all trades instruction provides prisoners with either a national or state recognized certification to improve their credentials and increase chances for viable employment and success upon release to the community."

If employers recognize the certification, are familiar with it and have hired employees in the past with that certification, they will be more likely to hire an ex-offender with the same qualifications. *F.Y.I.*



Lester Smith and rocking horses

Character band-aids collected for hospital



Supervisor Anne Baker, Oakland County Probation, spearheaded a character band-aid drive in memory of her son Andrew who lost his battle with leukemia last year.

The entire Oakland area took part in the collection of “character” band-aids for the pediatric intensive care unit and the pediatric cancer center at Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak.

During the month of February, the Oakland area offices, lead by Area Manager Kenneth Aud and Program Manager Jim Robertson, collected money for casual day and used the money to purchase the character band-aids. Staff also donated boxes of band-aids in addition to making casual day donations.

A total of 238 boxes of band-aids were donated and purchased. The Kmart store in Troy assisted with the project by ordering the band-aids and giving a ten percent discount off the regular retail price. [fyi.](#)

New wardens selected

Dennis M. Straub, Deputy Director, Correctional Facilities Administration, has announced the selection of the following wardens:

- ☐ Effective March 27, Shirlee Harry became Warden of the Muskegon Correctional Facility. She succeeded John Cason, who retired February 1.
- ☐ Effective April 4, David Bergh will assume the position of Warden of the Alger Maximum Correctional Facility. He succeeds Barbara Bouchard, who will be retiring April 1.
- ☐ Effective May 8, Warden Blaine Lafler will transfer to the St. Louis and Mid-Michigan Correctional Facilities as Warden. He succeeds Paul Renico, who is retiring April 1. [fyi.](#)

Visit michiganstepsup.org



Have you visited the MI Steps Up Web site? The site is the brainchild of Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom, Michigan's first surgeon general. Her goal is for every man, woman and child in Michigan to live a healthy lifestyle, no matter their age, physical ability or economic status.

Appointed to the position in February 2003 by Governor Jennifer Granholm, Dr. Wisdom leads Michigan's public health promotion and disease prevention efforts. She is also the state's advocate for community-based health.

The following information is taken from the MI Steps Up Web site located at <http://www.michigan.gov/surgeongeneral>.

The steps up Web site focuses on three things: **Move More, Eat Better and Don't Smoke**. Eating right, being active, maintaining a healthy weight, and not smoking are important ways to reduce your risk of cancer—as well as heart disease and diabetes. In the **Michigan Steps Up** Web site you can find:

- ◆ A Free Personal Plan: take an assessment quiz; set goals. Tools are available for recording daily achievements and updating goals weekly.
- ◆ Ways to increase physical activity for everyone at any age and with disabilities. It begins with a readiness quiz, and creating a plan to set and chart personal physical activity goals.
- ◆ A healthy eating quiz to help you recognize the good things you are already doing and then build on them; eating tips for everyone.
- ◆ A Nicotine Dependence quiz to help you develop a personal quit plan that is right for you; find great ways for parents to talk to their kids about not using tobacco; and facts about second-hand smoke.
- ◆ The best reason to lose weight is because it helps you be a healthier person overall.
- ◆ Tools to help you remain motivated and equipped with fresh information.

MI Step Up is a campaign designed to help reduce risk factors that threaten your health. Physical inactivity, unhealthy eating and tobacco use contribute to over 30 preventable diseases. Even small changes can lead to big rewards. michiganstepsup.org

Prisoners build Habitat Houses



Two Saginaw Habitat houses currently under construction are being built by residents of the Buena Vista Corrections Center. The houses, which broke ground in October, are scheduled to be completed this month. The facility has also helped on other Habitat projects over the years.

“It is part of a growing tradition of involving the prison population in builds,” said Mike Bebeau, construction supervisor for Saginaw Habitat for Humanity.

An average of five or six prisoners from the Buena Vista center are on site from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

“They are getting ready to be released, getting housing and jobs, learning to mingle with people,” said Bebeau. “Since they started, all the faces have changed completely, as they do every three to five weeks,

because they have been released and gone home.”

And he makes no judgment about them. “It’s not for me to ask what they are serving time for and I don’t. I don’t care what got them there. They are receptive, helpful and I hope learning skills they can use.”

Bebeau demonstrates the jobs to the prisoners and then stands back and oversees the progress.

These two builds are the first to use only prisoner labor from start to finish. The Saginaw Habitat builds are also using pre-fabricated wall panels constructed by prisoners in the Saginaw Correctional Facility Prison Build Program. *F.Y.I.*

Your vision and values input is due April 11, 2005

As a result of the concerns and issues that corrections employees identified at the Vision and Values Program, the Vision and Values Action Committee is giving staff an opportunity to provide direct input to the Department of Corrections’ Action Plans. Please take the time to express your ideas and answer your survey today. These suggestions will be used to incorporate the four core values into our everyday operations. For survey information contact a committee member.

F.Y.I.

Vision and Values Action Committee:

Kathy Arnold; (517) 768-6774
Joe Bouchard; (906) 353-7070, ext 1321
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It's officially spring and time for golf!

The Tenth Annual Bureau of Human Resources Golf Outing is Friday, June 3 at the North Star Golf Course (near Ithaca).

The four-person shotgun scramble costs \$220 per team. It includes 18 holes of golf with cart and five prize holes. Starting time is 10:00 a.m. Proceeds will go to charity.

Register your team by May 13, 2005 with Kathy Warner. Contact her by e-mail at warnerkl@michigan.gov. *J.Y.J.*

The Third Annual Minority Advisory Panel Golf Outing is May 12 at the Royal Scot Golf Course in Lansing

The \$240 per team cost includes 18 holes of golf with carts. The four-person scramble begins with a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m. Submit your entry by May 5, 2005. For information, contact Rhonda VanHurley-Wilson at (517) 373-3933. *J.Y.J.*

The Michigan Corrections Association (MCA) Third Annual Golf Outing will be held on September 8 at the Copper Ridge Golf Club in Davison.

Check-in time is 7:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. The registration fee is \$75 per person with a \$5 discount (\$70) for current or new MCA/ACA members. Included are 18 holes of golf, cart, range, B.B.Q. cookout and prizes. Contact Michael W. Curley or Amy L. Hasbrouck for a registration form at 989-846-7000 x 1152. *J.Y.J.*

Thank you for the screensaver submissions

Thank you to everyone for the magnificent screensaver submissions. Many of the photos are being considered for use in the future. If you have not yet submitted a Michigan sunset, here is your chance to get your photo included. The next round of screensavers will feature Michigan sunsets. Send your jpg file directly to Tammy Lott at lotttm@michigan.gov. Please include your name, location of the photo and your work location. *J.Y.J.*

Employee Service Program counselor

The Employee Service Program provides counselors and referrals for state employees and their families. *FYJ* is running a brief history of some of the counselors as a way to introduce them to corrections staff and encourage staff to call if needed.

Ethel White has been a member of the Employee Service Program team for 19 years. She has a BA in social work from Eastern Michigan University and a Masters in clinical social work from Michigan State University. At MSU her focus was on individual therapy, crisis intervention and group dynamics. At Eastern Michigan she specialized in Child and Family Services. She is a Certified Social Worker with the State of Michigan and a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers and the National Association of Social Workers. In addition, she presented a program on balancing work and personal life at the 2004 DOC Minority Advisory Panel (MAP) Conference.



Ethel White

White's 25 years of experience in the mental health field includes working as a program manager for Child and Family Service with the General Motor's Managed Care Program, teaching a class on substance abuse at Lansing Community College, and working with the National Council on Alcoholism as an outpatient therapist providing individual and group therapy.

White volunteers with the Lansing Chapter Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Team and at Ele's Place, A Place for Grieving Children.

You can reach her at the ESP office at (517) 373-7630 or (800) 521-1377. If you see her in the hallway at your facility or office, be sure to stop and say hello. *FYJ*.

RUO Jordan saves neighbor



Last month RUO Kenneth Jordan, Muskegon Correctional Facility, responded to a frantic request from his neighbor's granddaughter. A fire was burning out of control in her house and she was unable to get her grandfather out. RUO Jordan ran into the burning house, located the man and managed to carry him out of the house to safety. The smoke inside was so thick that RUO Jordan had to listen to his daughter's voice calling to him as a guide to safely exit the home. His quick action saved his neighbor from serious injury or death.

Kenneth Jordan became a resident unit officer in 1988 and was nominated as Corrections Officer of the Year in 1990.

"RUO Jordan is a fine corrections professional who represents both Muskegon Correctional Facility and the Michigan Department of Corrections in an excellent manner," said Warden Shirlee Harry. *FYJ*.

Where Do You Draw the Line? Learn How Alcohol Affects Your Health

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y husband and I are expecting a baby, and I enjoy an occasional glass of wine with dinner, will this affect my unborn child?

I take an over-the-counter medication, does this mean I shouldn't drink alcohol?

My 80-year-old father was recently told he has high blood pressure—can drinking make it worse?

How dangerous is it to stop at the bar on my way home from work and have a drink?

For most adults, moderate alcohol use causes few, if any, problems. But for some, any alcohol use may lead to significant problems. According to some researchers, heavy alcohol use can actually *increase* hypertension. Some people will have a glass of wine with dinner when eating out and not suffer any difficulties, yet more than 16,000 fatalities occur each year in alcohol-related automobile accidents. Trying to figure out a personal balance of the risks associated with alcohol use is not easy, because alcohol affects everyone differently at different times.

However, to better protect your health, it is important to know where you should draw the line on consuming alcohol:

- When you will be driving;
- If you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant;
- If you have a family history of alcohol abuse;
- If you have certain medical conditions, or are taking any medications; or
- If you have encountered problems at home, work or with the law as a result of alcohol use.

Decisions about alcohol use should be made with all of the risks in mind. Using objective information on which to base your decisions is the best way to determine what is right for you. National Alcohol Awareness Day is April 7, 2005. Now is the time to take a step toward improving your health by taking the free, anonymous alcohol screening offered by the Employee Service Program. This screening is available 24 hours 7 days a week by calling 1-800-887-5676 for a telephonic screening, or going online at www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening (keyword: "espmi"). The screening takes approximately five minutes. It will provide you with immediate feedback and tell you how to obtain additional information and assistance if you wish to do so.

If you have further questions about the use of alcohol and would like to have a free, confidential discussion with a professional counselor, you are invited to contact the Employee Service Program in Lansing at 517-373-7630 (800-521-1377), or in Detroit at 313-456-4020. You may also visit the Employee Service Program Web site at www.michigan.gov/esp.343.

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